

# **Abigail Pregnancy Services Grant Request**

## **I. Organizational Experience and Capabilities**

### **Abigail Pregnancy Services' Primary Purpose**

Abigail Ministries is committed, through the power and teachings of Jesus Christ, to educate, encourage, and empower women and men to make informed life choices. Abigail Pregnancy Services does not perform abortions nor refer for abortions. The mission of Abigail Pregnancy Services is to bring compassionate help and hope to women, men, and teens who are unprepared for pregnancy; to present sexual abstinence as a positive lifestyle for singles; to provide opportunities for healing and restoration to those who have been hurt by abortion; and to present Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. As an affiliate of Care Net, Abigail Ministries is part of a national network of pregnancy centers that share the common mission of ministering to women and men in need.

It is the hope and desire of Abigail Pregnancy Services that when women and men walk through the doors to get information in regards to their unplanned pregnancy that after receiving all of the information presented, they will choose childbirth rather than abortion due to all of the support they can receive from the center through parenting classes, free supplies (clothing, baby food, formula, diapers, and more), pregnancy verification to get on WIC and Medicaid, community referrals, adoption referrals, and the center's peer-counseling that is available for them at no cost to them. All of the services of Abigail Pregnancy Services is free and confidential for all clients.

### **Indicators Used to Determine Effectiveness and Quality**

In order to determine the effectiveness of Abigail Pregnancy Services, there are two methods used. The first method used is the client survey. The client survey speaks volumes on the quality of care each client receives. Every single client that comes through the doors to receive any service is given a "Client Comments" sheet before they leave (as seen in Appendix A). They have the opportunity to tell the staff how they felt during their visit, what they liked best about the center, how the center could be more helpful, and they are able to share any comments that they had. These are typically positive, but the staff keep all of these comment sheets and evaluate if there is ever anything else that could be provided to better help the clients when they have a need in regards to their pregnancy or parenting.

The other method used to determine effectiveness and quality is the stats report on the Ekyros system. These reports give us the numbers which helps the staff determine the effectiveness of each of the programs offered to the clients. For example, last year Abigail Pregnancy Services had 784 client visits, including 109 pregnancy tests, 172 hours of parenting classes and abstinence classes, over 11,700 boutique items were given away, and the birth of 81 babies were celebrated.

Ekyros is a system developed to help store information in, compile stats, and keep all data on staff and volunteers for crisis pregnancy centers. When looking at the stats report that Ekyros can

generate, this helps the staff gauge to see how many clients per month needed the services of Abigail Pregnancy Services. It also differentiates the stats in client visits for supplies, class hours for the parenting classes, and how many came in for a pregnancy test. This allows the staff to determine which is the highest need of the clients. If less clients come to the center then it is either because the clients no longer need the services of Abigail Pregnancy Services or the clients in need of the services are not aware of all of the services that Abigail Pregnancy Services provides. A monthly stat report is included in Appendix B.

### **Outcomes Achieved Over 5 Years**

Over the past 5 years, Abigail Pregnancy Services has achieved promoting childbirth with 3,973 client visits since January 2011. Of those client visits, 223 clients have attended the parenting class which is called “Baby Basics Class”. This is a nine-week program designed to educate parents on how to parent and take care of their baby. There have been three clients that have chosen adoption over the past five years. Another achievement that Abigail Pregnancy Services has had the pleasure to take part in is the celebration of 335 births since January 2011. Each new birth is a cause for celebration and new parents are given a layette (diaper bag) full of all of the items they need to care for a new baby for free from the center as a congratulatory gift.

### **Length and Depth of Experience Providing Services**

#### **Family Planning**

For the past two years, Abigail Pregnancy Services has offered abstinence education to clients that come in for a pregnancy test that are not pregnant and not married. Abstinence education is also presented to teenagers at local high schools and youth groups. For teenagers and clients that are not looking to plan for a family, abstinence is the only 100% sure way to not get pregnant. The staff goes over the physical, emotional, and spiritual consequences of having sex outside of marriage so that teenagers and clients are aware of the risk that they put their self in other than just the obvious risk of having an unplanned pregnancy.

There are times when a married client has a miscarriage. The staff at Abigail Pregnancy Services offers to meet with these clients as these clients have many thoughts racing through their mind about what went wrong with the pregnancy. The staff has resources to help aid in these situations that may help the client. Abigail Pregnancy Services is not a medical center, so when a client has a medical question such as the likelihood of becoming pregnant after a miscarriage or any clinical questions, the staff always refer clients to local doctors/professionals. Abigail Pregnancy Services has a referral list of local OB/GYNS with their addresses and phone numbers for clients when clients have a family planning question that needs a medical answer. Abigail Pregnancy Services does not perform or refer for abortions, nor considers abortion as a family planning method.

#### **Abortion Prevention Services and Childbirth Promotion**

When a client comes into the center for a free pregnancy test, the client is given an options-counseling session by a peer counselor while waiting for the results of the pregnancy test. During this counseling session, the peer counselor goes over all three options the client has if she is pregnant: parenting, abortion, and adoption. The peer counselor presents facts that are published in the “Before You Decide” catalog to these clients.

Before the peer counselor gets into the three different choices the parent may make, the peer counselor first asks when the first day of the last missed period was. With this information, the peer counselor can get an idea of how far along the client is. Then, the peer counselor can look in the “Before You Decide” catalog to get a picture of how the baby looks right now at this stage. Typically, seeing is believing for the client, and this shows the client how real her baby is at this time.

When abortion is referred to as one of three choices the parent can make, each abortion method is discussed. The peer counselor presents the information for the medical abortions and the surgical abortions. Then the peer counselor will go over when each method can be used, how it is used, the side effects, and the risks. Once these are gone over, the peer counselor then explains the emotional, physical, relational, and spiritual consequences.

Many clients are in a “crisis pregnancy” because they may feel they lack support, finances, or parenting skills. If the client’s pregnancy test is positive, the peer counselor then describes all of the services available for that client if the client keeps the baby to term. Support will not be an issue because the client will have a support system at Abigail Pregnancy Services with each staff member. The client can come in two times a month for the support they need to handle the stress of pregnancy. Finances are usually a stumbling block for many first-time parents. The staff at Abigail Pregnancy Services shows the client the boutique which is full of baby clothes from preemie-3T, baby diapers, formula, baby food, maternity clothes, diaper bags, and baby furniture all for free. The peer counselor also provides the client with local referrals for food banks, clothing banks, and other community resources that can help the client. The client also can receive her pregnancy verification form from the doctor that helps with the center. With this verification form, the client can get signed up for Medicaid health insurance as well as assistance with WIC.

### **Parenting Education/Development**

Many new parents do not know what to expect with a new baby, and that is why parenting classes are offered at no charge to all new parents at Abigail Pregnancy Services. These are 9 week one-hour classes that cover prenatal development, SIDS, car seat and safety concerns, food for growth, how to calm a crying baby, first aid accidents and illnesses for babies and toddlers, and preventing child molestation. The staff encourage both parents to attend these classes together (especially with the high rate of single mothers in the nation) so that the father is just as involved and prepared as the mother is. If the mother is in the pregnancy alone, there is also a class that is done with single parents when the topic is “Going It Alone”. No matter what the situation is, Abigail Pregnancy Services aims to help prepare the clients the best they can for being good parents.

When the clients complete all 9 classes, the client earns 200 points to spend in the boutique on baby items. The client also receives a free graduation present. Previously, the parents always earned free pack and plays, but the local county health department now gives out free pack and plays. Since Abigail Pregnancy Services never wants to duplicate another successful service in the area, they are now giving out free infant car seats as a graduation present. New parents are not allowed to leave the hospital unless their baby is in a safe car seat. Since there are no other organizations in the county that gives out free infant car seats, those are now given out as the free

graduation present as an incentive for all parents to graduate the parenting class. It is the hope of Abigail Pregnancy Services that with all of these free services, a parent will be more willing to carry their baby to term.

### **Adoption Assistance**

Abigail Pregnancy Services discusses adoption with each client that comes in for a free pregnancy test. The benefits and facts of adoption are shared with these clients. In the past five years, 3 clients have chosen adoption for their children. Each client is given with a list of referrals which includes referrals for four different adoption agencies: The Adoption Circle, Adoption Link, Catholic Charities, and Gentle Care.

The staff are also in the process of receiving a free training from Lifetime Adoption out of California in learning how to better promote adoption to abortion-vulnerable clients during their options counseling. Abigail Pregnancy Services is also receiving more information on adoption from Gentle Care so that there will be even more resources to give to parents considering adoption.

## **II. Key Staff Experience and Capabilities**

### **Program Lead**

The Executive Director of Abigail Pregnancy Services is Amanda Clark. She was born, raised, and resides in the state of Ohio. She would be considered as the Program Lead and Program Outcome Manager in terms of the ODJFS Parenting and Pregnancy Program Grant. Her resume and profile as Executive Director are included at the very end of this grant.

She originally graduated from Ashland University with a degree in teaching. After teaching a couple of years in a residential treatment facility, her eyes were opened to the trouble that occurs to individuals in the social services sphere of influence. Her desire was to go back and get her masters in mental health counseling, but because of her passion for the social services field, she was compelled to go back to school and get her MBA so not only could she work in the social services fields, but she would have the opportunity to make sure that as an administrator she hired the right people to work with the people that are hurting and need help. She had experienced too many times when people took jobs to help hurting people, but they themselves did not care about their influence because they were only in the job for a paycheck. These types of employees have a high turnover rate and do more harm than help for the organization.

Amanda Clark has been employed at Abigail Pregnancy Services for one year as the Executive Director. Prior to employment at Abigail Pregnancy Services, Amanda was the director of The Willard Hope Center (for three years) which is a local organization aimed at providing a safe, fun environment for teenagers to go to so that they stay off of the streets and away from drugs. As the director, she enforced purity and abstinence among the teenagers. She also worked as the children's pastor and youth leader of her church. In all of these roles, she promoted purity with teaching, educational materials, and took the youth of the church and the Hope Center to purity conferences. She also worked as an advocate of Abigail Pregnancy Services by donating baby

items to the organization, supporting their campaigns, and educating others in the community about their services.

### **Program Outcome Manager**

As stated previously, Amanda has been the Executive Director of Abigail Pregnancy Services for one year to fulfill the experience as needed for the Program Outcome Manager. As the Program Outcome Manager, Amanda will ensure that all funds granted to Abigail Pregnancy Services will fund the new and expanded services that this grant is for. She will also successfully accomplish and report participant activity, services provided and other data in a monthly report as requested to ODJFS.

### **Fiscal Specialist**

Abigail Pregnancy Services has an excellent financial analyst on staff that can fulfill the job description as the Fiscal Specialist for this grant. Carol Beal has been the financial analyst for over a year now. Carol Beal is a former banker and was actually on staff at Abigail Pregnancy Services in the early years as the financial analyst as well. Carol will be responsible for preparing monthly invoices, ensuring adherence to fiscal policies and procedures, and preparing any additional financial reports as necessary. These are all part of her job description already, and she will be able to accomplish every additional task added by this grant in excellence. Her job profile will be in Appendix C.

### **Case Worker**

Terri Bridgitt is currently the Norwalk Office Manager/Client Services Director at Abigail Pregnancy Services and will fulfill the role of the Case Worker for this grant. Terri has been on staff at Abigail Pregnancy Services for a little over six years. Her desire for this ministry, the clients, and for promoting childbirth shines through all of her work and communication to others about her job. Her job already intertwines with the expectations of this role by coordinating care, resources and services for individual or family participants that will provide services to promote childbirth and parenting. She as well will be able to perform this role in excellence and to the abilities expected by the ODJFS.

### **Key Support Staff**

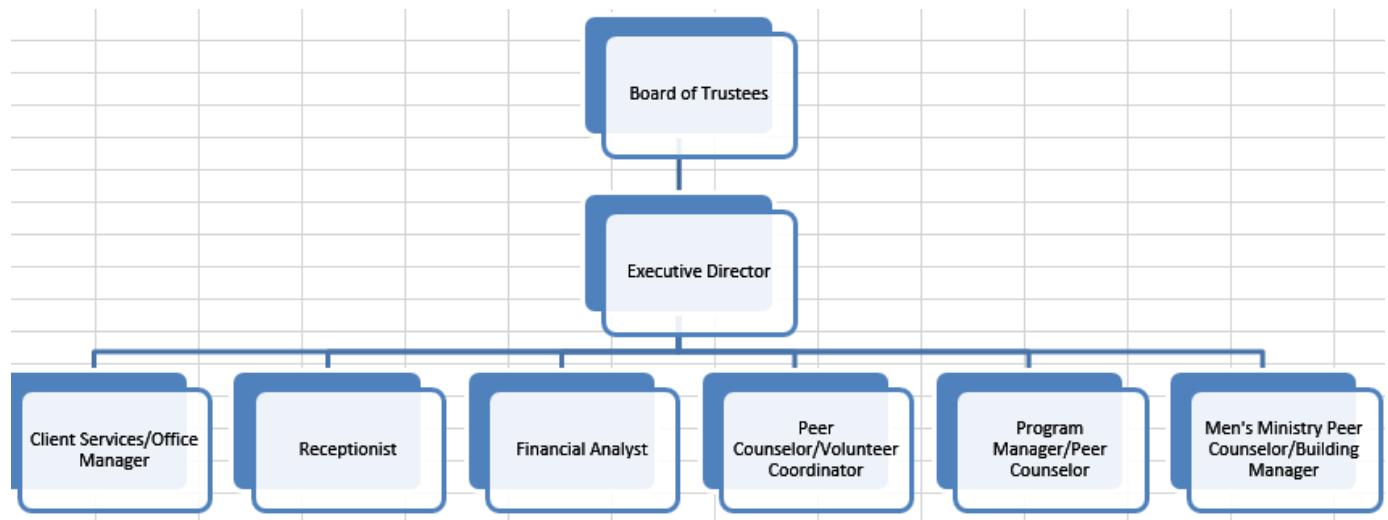
Carol Rinella is the Volunteer Coordinator/Peer Counselor. She has been employed with Abigail Pregnancy Services for nine years. She is a key employee because of the relations she has with the local community, volunteers, and local churches in terms of getting help and raising awareness. She is also a very compassionate peer counselor when the clients are in the counseling room. Any new employees, board members, or volunteers must go through the Care Net training (our affiliate) in order to be involved, and she is the one that runs that training. She is a vital part of the success to Abigail Pregnancy Services. With this grant, the hope is to reach even more clients as services are expanded, so she will be meeting with more clients in the counseling room.

Pat Myers is the Baby Basics Educator/Peer Counselor. She has been employed with Abigail Pregnancy Services for three years. She teaches the parenting program. She is very passionate

about this class and this grant will greatly impact her. All of the parenting materials and dvds are outdated. With new curriculum, she will have the opportunity to teach updated material to the clients on how to prepare for parenting. With the funds to upgrade the parenting class, it is expected that the number of students will increase which will impact even more members of the local community on how to be a prepared parent.

Yusdenis Labrada is the bi-lingual Baby Basics Educator/Peer Counselor/Office Manager in the Willard office. She has been employed with Abigail Pregnancy Services for over a year now. The majority of clients in the Willard office is Hispanic. Unfortunately, Abigail Pregnancy Services does not have the funds to purchase a Spanish parenting curriculum. Only a few of the videos have the Spanish option. With this grant, Yusdenis will have the opportunity to teach the parenting program to the Spanish clients with the Spanish videos and handouts. Her role will be greatly impacted by being able to serve more clients in the community with the parenting curriculum in Spanish.

### Current Organizational Chart



As stated above, the Executive Director will perform the duties of the Program Lead and the Program Outcome manager. The Financial Analyst will perform the duties of the Fiscal Specialist. The Client Services/Office Manager will perform the duties of the Case Worker. The Program Manager/Peer Counselor will be responsible for teaching the new parenting curriculum. The Peer Counselor/Volunteer Coordinator will be impacted because she will be peer counseling more clients when this grant is received so that more clients can be served.

### III. Organizational Profile and Participant Eligibility

#### Description of Abigail Pregnancy Services' Programs and Services

##### Baby and Maternity Supplies and Clothing

We offer free baby and maternity clothing, as well as formula, diapers, baby food, baby furniture, and other items that are necessary when raising and caring for a child. Our

clients earn points by completing parenting classes, child development videos, and bible studies. The points are used to “purchase” the supplies that the clients need.

### **Free Pregnancy Testing**

We offer free pregnancy testing and options counseling. Positive tests are verified by a physician so that the client can begin receiving health insurance if they are not already insured.

### **Parenting Classes**

We provide a Baby Basics class for expecting moms and dads that includes a number of essential topics for new parents, including the following: stages of pregnancy and fetal development, safety standards, car seat installation, reducing the risk of SIDS, awareness of shaken baby syndrome, How to find quality child care, first aid for accidents and illnesses, and preventing child molestation. Clients who complete all 9 1-hour classes receive free infant car seats for their baby.

### **Community Referrals**

We maintain an awareness of programs offered by organizations and agencies outside this ministry so that we are not duplicating services. We instead provide our clients with referrals to those agencies in an effort to efficiently meet their needs.

### **New Center in Willard, Ohio**

Three years ago, a new center in Willard, Ohio. This center duplicates the services offered freely at the Norwalk location on slightly a smaller scale. Additionally, it offers bi-lingual peer counseling to the large number of Spanish-speaking clients.

### **Abstinence Education Program**

In 2013, due to the requests of several public and Christian schools, a new abstinence education was added as a program that allows us to reach teens with the life-changing, relevant message of the importance of evaluating how their actions now can affect their future relationships and health. This allows them to make an informed decision about whether or not to be involved in sexual activity outside of a committed marriage relationship.

### **Post-Abortion Recovery Program**

In 2014, we formed an abortion recovery program to answer the need that women in our communities have expressed of needing help working through the regret and guilt that followed their decision to have an abortion in the past. Through this program, we pray women can find freedom and healing from their regret and hope for a promising future.

### **Intake Process**

Abigail Pregnancy Services does not discriminate in the provision of services on the basis of race, religion, color, age, marital status, national origin, disability, or gender. When a client walks through the door for any of the services that is provided, they are given an appointment. At that appointment, the client intake form is filled out. The client intake form is included as Appendix D at the end of this grant. This form allows the peer

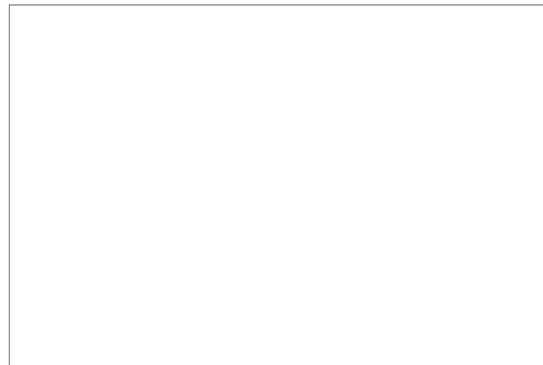
counselor to get to know the client, the situation the client is in, services the client may be in need of or qualifies for, and it gives the peer counselor an idea if the client is abortion-vulnerable or not.

If the client is pregnant, a follow-up service is set up for the client to either come back for the parenting classes (if the client will be a new parent) or for the client to come back for supplies and peer-counseling. Clients are able to come to the center for supplies up to two times per month. Once the client is one-month shy of the due date, they are able to begin shopping for baby clothing and items.

### Geographical Areas Covered

Abigail Pregnancy Services is the only crisis pregnancy center in Huron County. The center does serve some clients in Erie County as well. The majority of the clients at the Norwalk center are from Norwalk while the majority of the clients at the Willard center are from Willard. Here is a chart that shows the top seven zip codes of the clients that were served for the year of 2014:

### Clients Served by City



	All ZipCode	2014					% of Total
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2014	
Total	All ZipCode	139	139	151	141	570	100.00%
OH	129	129	140	135	533		93.51%
Norwalk	57	48	59	59	223		41.84%
44857	57	48	59	59	223		100.00%
Willard	29	38	34	35	136		25.52%
44890	29	38	34	35	136		100.00%
New London	7	8	10	7	32		6.00%
44851	7	8	10	7	32		100.00%
Huron	8	6	7	5	26		4.88%
44839	8	6	7	5	26		100.00%
Monroeville	6	2	4	7	19		3.56%
44847	6	2	4	7	19		100.00%
Wakeman	6	5	3	5	19		3.56%

44889	6	5	3	5	19	100.00%
Greenwich	3	6	4	5	18	3.38%
44837	3	6	4	5	18	100.00%
Bellevue	3	3	3	3	12	2.25%
44811	3	3	3	3	12	100.00%
Plymouth	1	3	4	2	10	1.88%
44865	1	3	4	2	10	100.00%
Clyde	0	4	2	3	9	1.69%
43410	0	4	2	3	9	100.00%
Collins	1	0	3	3	7	1.31%
44826	1	0	3	3	7	100.00%
Lorain	2	3	2	0	7	1.31%
44052	2	3	2	0	7	100.00%
Sandusky	1	2	3	1	7	1.31%
44870	1	2	3	1	7	100.00%
Milan	3	1	1	0	5	0.94%
44846	3	1	1	0	5	100.00%
Attica	1	0	1	0	2	0.38%
44807	1	0	1	0	2	100.00%
Berlin Heights	1	0	0	0	1	0.19%
44814	1	0	0	0	1	100.00%
Unknown	9	9	9	5	32	5.61%
Unknown	9	9	9	5	32	100.00%
00000	9	9	9	5	32	100.00%
KY	1	1	2	1	5	0.88%
Falmouth	1	1	2	1	5	100.00%
41040	1	1	2	1	5	100.00%

Abigail Pregnancy Services is in operation on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10am-4pm at the Norwalk center. It is in operation on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-4pm at the Willard center. The availability of the center being open allows for ample opportunity for the clients to come in when they need to get the services they need.

### Unique Services

Services that Abigail Pregnancy Services feels is unique is the parenting classes as well as the boutique. These are the only parenting classes offered in Huron County. The clients give positive feedback about the classes and one client even shared her testimony about how positive the classes impacted her and her family at the annual fundraising banquet this past year.

The boutique is very unique because of how large and full it is. Other pregnancy centers have boutiques, but from comparison, the boutique at the Norwalk facility is very large and has many nice items stocked in it. The staff at Abigail Pregnancy Services always makes sure that there is enough items stocked to ensure that the clients get everything that they need to take good care of their children. A lot of times this means last-minute runs to Walmart when formula and diapers are low, but the clients always get what they

need to take good care of their children and provide their needs. As stated earlier, over 11,700 boutique items were give out in 2014. This shows the supply and demand that operates within the boutique.

### Organization Information

Abigail Pregnancy Services has a client-focused website at: [www.abigailonline.org](http://www.abigailonline.org) . This site is geared towards the abortion-minded client who has just found out that she is pregnant and is full of questions and worries.

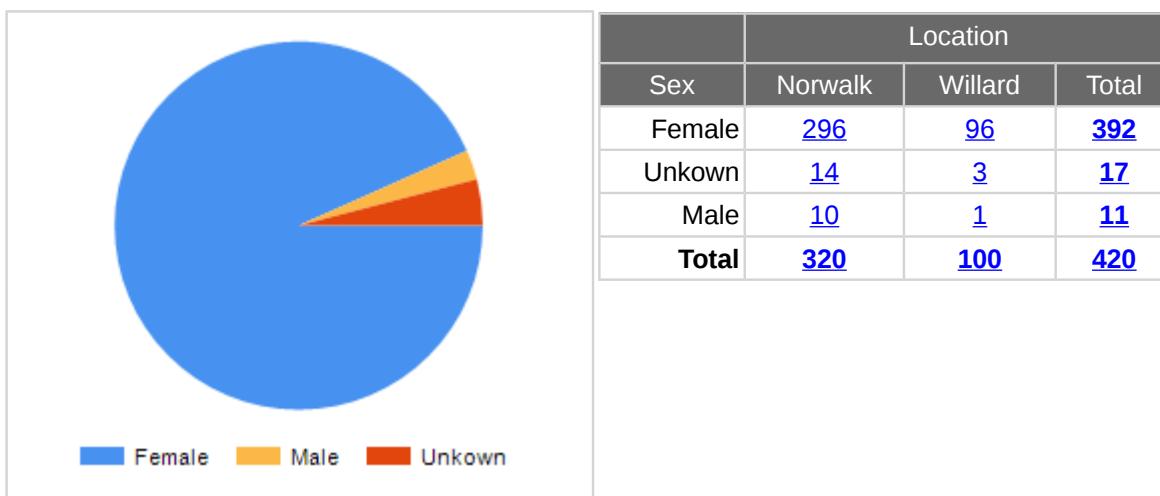
Abigail Pregnancy Services has recently launched a donor-focused website within the past year. This site is: [www.friendsofabigail.com](http://www.friendsofabigail.com) . This site is focused on the individual sponsors, church sponsors, and the community members that are advocates of Abigail Pregnancy Services and would like to get involved.

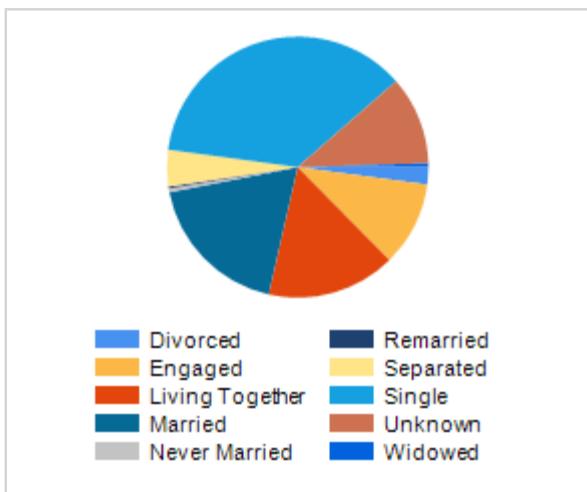
Attached to this grant are a couple of brochures. The one brochure that states “What’s Your Story” is client-focused. It provides all of the services provided by Abigail Pregnancy Services and the times that each location is open as well as their geographic location. The brochure that states “Put Your Compassion into Action” is donor-gearied. It lets the donors and potential advocates for Abigail Pregnancy Services know what they can do to help the center. There is also a brochure included at the end of this grant that is about the parenting program that is offered at Abigail Pregnancy Services. In addition to these documents, the latest newsletter is included so that you can get a better insight about the work that Abigail Pregnancy Services does and the impact and involvement that it has with the local community.

### Demographic Information

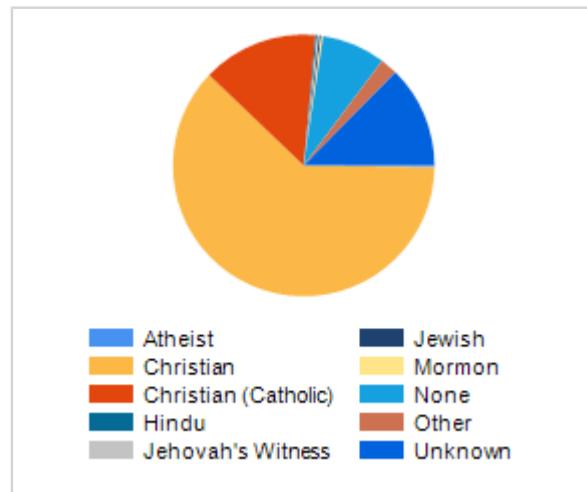
The following information is the reports of the clients served by the Norwalk and Willard Abigail Pregnancy Services’ centers from November 2013 until now. Altogether, a total of 420 clients have been served by both locations over the past two years.

#### Unique Clients by Sex



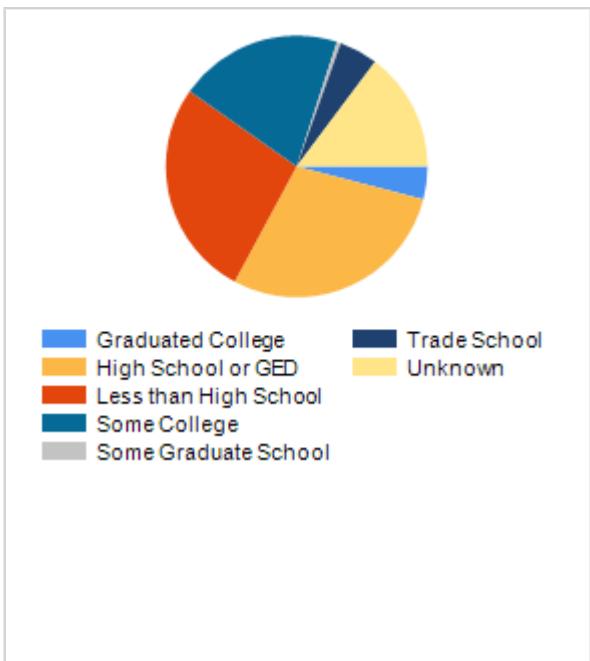
**Unique Clients by Marital Status**

Marital Status	Location		
	Norwalk	Willard	Total
Single	121	32	153
Married	59	18	77
Living Together	39	28	67
Unknown	41	5	46
Engaged	36	8	44
Separated	14	5	19
Divorced	7	2	9
Never Married	1	1	2
Widowed	2	0	2
Remarried	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>420</b>

**Unique Clients by Religion**

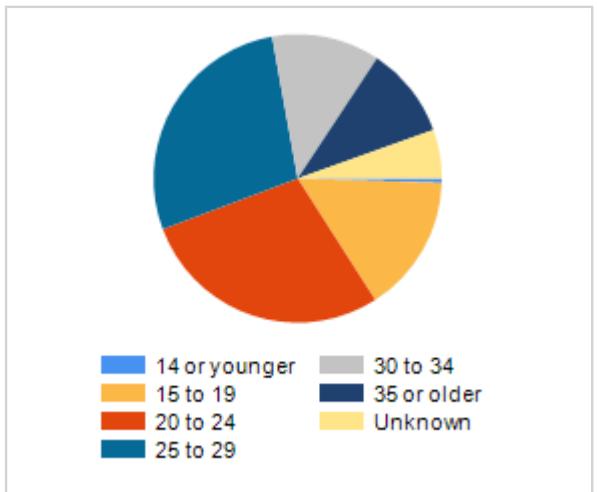
Religion	Location		
	Norwalk	Willard	Total
Christian	201	59	260
Christian (Catholic)	42	18	60
Unknown	45	8	53
None	23	10	33
Other	5	4	9
Jewish	1	0	1
Mormon	1	0	1
Atheist	1	0	1
Hindu	1	0	1
Jehovah's Witness	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>420</b>

**Unique Clients by Education Level**



Education Level	Location		
	Norwalk	Willard	Total
High School or GED	93	28	121
Less than High School	79	34	113
Some College	63	22	85
Unknown	53	9	62
Trade School	18	2	20
Graduated College	12	5	17
Some Graduate School	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>420</b>

## Unique Clients



Age	Location		
	Norwalk	Willard	Total
20 to 24	97	22	119
25 to 29	90	27	117
15 to 19	49	16	65
30 to 34	31	20	51
35 or older	30	13	43
Unknown	21	2	23
14 or younger	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>420</b>

## Parenting Education

From 2013 until now, a total of 475 hours have been invested into parenting classes by the clients at both locations.



## Childbirth Promotion/Family Planning/Abortion Prevention Services

As stated earlier, every time a client comes into the center for a free pregnancy test, they receive options counseling from a peer-counselor. This presents the three options of: parenting, adoption,

or abortion. Each of these sessions would be considered an abortion prevention service or a childbirth promotion due to the topics shared. Clients are encouraged to really think about their options, the pros and cons of each option, and what the consequences will be with each option. In terms of adoption or parenting, the center will provide the client with either referrals or supplies and resources to help them along the way with their decision. Abigail Pregnancy Services does not perform nor refer for abortions.

Over the past two years, there have been 370 free pregnancy tests given out. If the client is not married then that is when the family planning option of abstinence (the only 100% effective way to prevent childbirth) is presented. Otherwise, if the test is positive, the client will go through the options counseling as previously stated where they will be presented with abortion prevention services as well as childbirth promotion through the knowledge they are gaining of their decision they are to make.

	2013	2014	2015	Total	% of Total
Pregnancy Tests at All Locations	161	109	100	370	100.00%

### **Participant Eligibility**

Abigail Pregnancy Services provides services for all clients seeking assistance from the organization. There is no proof of income that needs to be shown to receive any services; however, to be eligible for Medicaid insurance or WIC (referral agencies), the clients must meet an income requirement. Many clients come to the center and either state they are already on WIC and Medicaid or that they are coming to get their pregnancy verification so that they can get approved to get on Medicaid and WIC.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

When receiving this grant, if the eligibility of clients need to be at or below the 200% poverty level then peer counselors will ask to see the client's Medicaid card, WIC approval information, or recent paystubs. The majority of clients are already on these services and they will just need to do one more step by allowing Abigail Pregnancy Services to make copies of all documents for verification purposes.

## **IV. Program Design**

### **Target Audience**

The target audience for this grant will be pregnant women and the fathers. This grant will also target new mothers and fathers. The goal is to always get the fathers involved with the pregnancy and the child once it is born. The target audience will be in the geographical region of Huron County with some from close by Richland County and Erie County. This grant will help reach out to the Hispanic, African-American, and Caucasian populations.

### **Program Requirements**

The funding will increase the number of families served in the area. It will also increase community awareness of available services and the availability of these services. Currently, funding has been down at Abigail Pregnancy Services due to many larger donors have passed

away. Abigail Pregnancy Services is at a point when the center may need to be closed one day out of the week due to low funding. This means that parents needing the services that Abigail Pregnancy Services provides will not have as much access to these services. Funding is crucial to continue to do the work that the center does for the men, women, and children of the community.

With the \$100,000 grant from ODJFS Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Program, Abigail Pregnancy Services will be able to provide support for 993 more clients over the next five years (given that the number of clients will increase at a rate of 25% due to the opportunity to advertise more and offer more and expanded programs).

### **Increased Numbers Served**

With this grant, Abigail Pregnancy Services will be able to offer an updated and revised parenting program with up-to-date videos, materials, and worksheets. Abigail Pregnancy Services will offer be able to offer a Spanish parenting class for the high population of Hispanic clients that continues to grow. Abigail Pregnancy Services will also be able to stock up on size 3, 4, and 5 diapers (always short on these sizes) as well as formula. These are high needs for the clients at both centers, but these are all items that rarely ever get donated. These are all expanded services, but the new service that this grant will offer Abigail Pregnancy Services is the ability to transition into a medical center with limited-ultrasounds.

Abigail Pregnancy Services will demonstrate that the increase was a result of funding provided by the Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Program by thanking this program in the monthly newsletter and submitting a press release to the local newspapers (Norwalk Reflector and Willard Times Junction) to do a thank you story on this piece.

The expected increase will be measured by the Ekyros system that generates all of the stats and reports. By looking over the reports and comparing the quarterly and yearly reports, this will give the staff an idea at how many more clients are obtaining the expanded and new services offered. A monthly report will be sent to the ODJFS so that they can see as well how many more families are being served due to the grant that funded these programs.

### **Increase Community Awareness of Service and Availability of Services**

Abigail Pregnancy Services has an excellent relationship with a local radio station. This radio station always broadcasts for the center for free. This station will be one of the first to know about the grant and the availability of services to broadcast on the station. With the funding, Abigail Pregnancy Services will also be able to afford to have other local radio stations broadcast the services. These will be broadcasted on radio stations within a 35 mile radius of the center. Local newspapers will also be contacted to run a story on the funding of the grant, the expanded services, and the new services.

In the ever-growing technology age, the public availability of services will also be on the center's Facebook pages for clients and donors as well as the website pages for clients and donors. These are great marketing strategies because they are free and depending on how many people share this information over the web, word can get out to a wide array of people within the local community within a couple of days.

Typically, on Facebook alone, Abigail Pregnancy Services reaches about 100 people per week. With the addition of such a great report as receiving this grant along with the local radio stations, it is anticipated that 2,000 people will be contacted about the expanded and new services provided by this grant.

### **Provide New and Expanded Services**

With this grant, Abigail Pregnancy Services plans to expand the services of the parenting program which is geared towards pregnant women and the father or new parents with a child under 12 months old. Currently, there is a need for parenting classes in Huron County. The center sees that need with how many students sign up to participate in the parenting class (about 10 parents per class in Norwalk). There is also a need for the parenting class in Willard. The majority of these clients are Hispanic and cannot understand the English videos or curriculum. New curriculum in English and Spanish will help meet the need of new parents wanting to participate in these classes.

With the funding to purchase new curriculum in English and Spanish, it is anticipated that 50 new parents per year will benefit from the parenting class. This service will be evaluated for success by the client surveys that the clients are given after the completion of their class as well as the statistical reports that are documented on the Ekyros system. With the combination of positive client surveys in addition to an increase of students graduating the parenting class, this will indicate that the evaluation of this expanded service is successful.

The services of providing formula and diapers will be expanded into the boutique program. Currently, Abigail Pregnancy Services is barely able to keep up with the demand of diapers and formula. This is a need because if parents do not receive the diapers they need for their children, they will just keep the diapers on the children longer which in turn causes diaper rash on the children. Parents also will try to stretch formula by watering it down to make it last longer. This is actually toxic to the babies. Many clients are on WIC to receive free formula, but the formula does not last the entire month for the babies. When the parents run short on formula, it is important that Abigail Pregnancy Services has some on hand to benefit the baby and the parent. This will be implemented with having more formula and diapers on hand. This can be evaluated easily by going over all of the client files and seeing what the clients received in the boutique. If more clients are receiving diapers and formula then that means the program was successful because the supply is meeting the demand.

Going medical has always been a dream of Abigail Pregnancy Services'. The goal is always to see pregnant women carry their babies to term. With the use of limited-ultrasound so that the pregnant women can see their babies for the first time, hear the heartbeat of the baby, and realize that the baby is an actual human being, this increases the likelihood that a woman will carry her baby to term. The staff at Abigail Pregnancy Services truly believes that when the center goes medical, the evaluation for success will be easy to determine because there will be more clients eager to book appointments if they know they have the opportunity to see their baby or hear the heartbeat. Again, with the use of Ekyros and client surveys, the center can determine the outcome of if the services is successful by what the clients say and how many more clients book appointments in order to have an ultrasound. Abigail Pregnancy Services already has the extra room for the ultra sound machine and nurses that are willing to volunteer. It is a matter of going

through the paperwork (which has been started with joining with NIFLA) and getting the ultra sound machine.

### **Mandatory Services**

#### **Parenting and Family Class/Counseling Classes**

Currently, Abigail Pregnancy Services is using an outdated curriculum. The curriculum has videos that the students watch during each of the 9 classes, hands-on training with life-like dolls, and worksheets to go along with each video. The videos that are shown during the class are: Discipline: Teaching Limits with Love, Infant and Toddler Emergency First Aid Volumes 1 & 2, Safe from the Start: Safety, Baby to Be: Everything You Need to Know During Your Pregnancy, The Biology of Prenatal Development, Going it Alone: Preparing for Single Parenthood (if there are single parents participating in the class), Quality Child Care: Making the Right Choice for You & Your Child, A Video Guide to Pregnancy, and the First Years Last Forever. The goal is to prepare each parent for the first twelve months of parenthood with their new babies. This is evidence-based curriculum because some of these videos depend on the situation the parents are in. Parents participate in hands-on skills with a majority of the classes, and parents have testified how the skills they learned in the parenting class helped them when their baby was born. With the help of this grant, this class will be able to have updated curriculum, videos, and a Hispanic option for Spanish-speaking clients.

#### **Infant Safety Lessons**

Abigail Pregnancy Services has two videos on infant safety that clients can either watch as part of the parenting class or they can come in and watch the video as part of their peer-counseling appointment. When clients participate in the parenting class, they are rewarded at graduated with 200 points to the boutique and a brand new infant car seat. If the client decides to just watch these two videos alone then they earn 100 points for items in the boutique. Either way, Abigail Pregnancy Services ties an incentive in so that the clients are more motivated to watch these videos.

#### **Mother and Child Nutrition Education**

Abigail Pregnancy Services has recently joined up with Susan Shickley, the SNAP Educator of the OSU-extension branches in Huron and Erie Counties to offer nutrition education to the pregnant women and children of the clients at Abigail Pregnancy Services. Currently, Susan is awaiting to attend the Care Net training so that she can come into contact with the clients and the children at the center of Abigail Pregnancy Services in Norwalk. This will be a free and confidential service as well as all of the services offered.

Nutrition, smoking, and alcohol are also in a lesson of the parenting class with the prenatal videos. The clients see how important it is with how they eat, smoke, and drink while pregnant. In addition, every client receives a referral folder during their first visit to Abigail Pregnancy Services. Within this referral folder is a sheet about the dangers of smoking while pregnant. Every peer counselor goes over this information with the client at the first visit. If the client is a smoker, then the peer counselor goes over another sheet that is in the referral folder. This sheet provides the information for the Tobacco Cessation program offered by the local hospital in town at no cost to the clients. The only thing the client needs to do is call to set up an appointment and

bring this sheet filled out with them to begin to program to get off of smoking. These sheets will be added to the end of the grant for you to review.

### **Outreach for Other Social Services**

Abigail Pregnancy Services believes in giving every client the opportunity to receive services that they need. This is why each client receives a recent referral list of local organizations and services during their very first visit. The referral folder includes information for WIC, Huron County Health Department, Non-Food Banks, Child Centers, Domestic Violence Shelters, Food Pantries, and much more. There is a blue referral folder included in this grant so that you are able to see all of the information we provide for our clients so that we can help them the very best we know how with all of the information of organizations that can meet the needs that we are not able to.

### **Infant Mortality**

Abigail Pregnancy Services is aware of the infant mortality rate in the state of Ohio and aims to help reduce that rate by providing knowledge to the clients to help prevent infant mortality. The current services provided for clients to reduce the rate of infant mortality is a session of SIDS and infant mortality in the parenting class, as well as the video available for clients to watch for 50 points to the boutique if they choose not to participate in the parenting program. There is also a sheet on SIDS and how to prevent it in the referral folder given to every client the first time they come to the center. Each peer counselor goes over this sheet to the clients if they are pregnant. Abigail Pregnancy Services also helps provide safe, sleep environments for all of the babies. The staff constantly updates the recall list on baby cribs to make sure that a baby crib that is recalled never gets into the hands of a client. Clients are only given safe sleep environments for the children. Up until recently, Abigail Pregnancy Services gave away free pack and plays as a graduation present to parents graduating the parenting class. Since the local health department now gives out free pack and plays, the graduation gift has changed so that services are not duplicated, but there are still pack and plays given out to clients that do not meet the requirements from the health department to get one from them.

The intended outcome is that each client that receives services from Abigail Pregnancy Services will not have an infant die due to an incident that could have been protected. By providing baby furniture, classes, handouts, and videos on the topic, it is the intended outcome that every parents will follow the guidelines that they have learned to ensure the safety of their child.

### **Sub-Contractors**

Abigail Pregnancy Services will have no sub-contractors/sub-grantees with the funding of this grant.

### **Community Organizations**

Abigail Pregnancy Services works together with local churches and business to help get the word out about the services that are provided to the community. It is expected that with new and expanded services, local churches and business will partner with helping to promote these services. No funding will be provided to local churches or business to help promote the services. No other organization will receive funds from this grant or collaborate in terms of the services provided from this grant. The money from this grant will be invested into the lives of the clients

and their children by funding services to improve the likelihood of carrying a child to term, educating clients on becoming parents, and supplying the demand for boutique items such as formula and diapers.

### **Confidentiality**

Participate and program information will be collected by peer counselors writing the data from meeting with the clients. Each peer counselor must go through a Care Net training before they are even allowed to have contact with clients. This ensures that peer counselors are aware of the importance of confidentiality and collecting information from the peer-counseling sessions.

Once the data is written, peer counselors type all of the information and data regarding the clients into the Ekyros system which is password blocked. Any client files are locked up in the office so that no one can get to them. The only person available to access the information on clients are the peer counselors or the Executive Director or Client Services Director when they need to run reports or stats. All services are free and confidential at the center.

## Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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